

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.645, KRS 158.6451, KRS 158.6453, KRS 164.0207, 704 KAR 3:304, 704 KAR 3:305

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Position Statement and literacy plan?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Adolescent literacy is a Kentucky Board of Education priority. With support from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), Kentucky has had the opportunity to engage key stakeholders in developing an adolescent literacy plan for the state. In September 2007, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Reading Association sponsored an adolescent literacy forum where guests representing K-12, higher education and business were able to learn more about adolescent literacy issues in the nation and in Kentucky. They were also asked to present ideas about how the state could address topics related to the NASBE grant goals. The feedback received from the forum participants was used to draft the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan.

In January of 2008, the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Task Force convened to review and offer feedback on the plan. The Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Plan was developed to address the goals established by the NASBE grant and includes recommendations received from K-12, higher education, business and government and includes the latest national research on the topic.

As a part of Kentucky's funded proposal, the primary goals of the NASBE grant are to:

1. Develop an Adolescent Literacy Task Force charged with developing a statewide Adolescent Literacy Plan.
2. Develop a position statement for stakeholder groups, as well as a compilation of resources and model programs to build knowledge and create interest in advocating for change.
3. Enhance teacher preparation and certification by requiring courses in literacy and creating a literacy coach/teacher leader endorsement.

4. Design and implement professional development opportunities for schools based on existing programs and models (e.g., Striving Readers, the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project, content literacy academies).
5. Provide state-level guidance and training for schools to develop comprehensive literacy plans beginning in fall 2009, with resources and training beginning in fall 2008.

Based on feedback received from key stakeholders, the plan is organized into the following areas:

1. Teacher Preparation/Certification
2. Professional Development
3. Instructional Resources
4. Data Informed Decision Making
5. Support Structure

Each of these five areas contains an overview, stating the need or urgency and is followed by a chart outlining the specific recommendations for each area, the rationale for the recommendation, the expected outcomes and the timeline and resources.

It is recommended to bring together the task force to review and contribute strategies for each recommendation in the plan and to present these plans to the KBE in October.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends approval of the position statement and plan. The taskforce offered input and suggestions for the outlined recommendations. The grant goals were developed following the guidelines of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and are based on policy statements and research from adolescent literacy experts.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff has consulted the Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Task Force, NASBE and various state and national literacy organizations. The recommendations have been developed with awareness of national policy statements and research on adolescent literacy. Implementation of the plan will impact teacher and administrator efficacy and student learning and achievement.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Literacy is critical to students reaching proficiency.

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Date:

August 2008